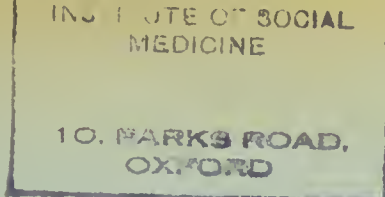


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BRECONSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the Year 1949

by

W. F. W. BETENSON  
M.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY MEDICAL  
OFFICER OF HEALTH



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

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I have the honour to submit to you my Eighteenth Annual Report with Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of Breconshire for the year 1949.

The death rate for the year was 12.46 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales and 11.00 for the County in 1948.

The Birth Rate for Live Births was 17.30 compared with 16.7 for England and Wales and the Birth Rate for Still Births was 0.48 compared with 0.39 for England and Wales, the corresponding Birth Rates for the County in 1948 being Live Births 17.09 and Still Births 0.65.

The Infantile Mortality rate for the year was 43.75 compared with 32 for England and Wales and 31 for the County in 1948.

There were no deaths of Mothers during Childbirth in the year, compared with 2 deaths and a rate of 2.09 in 1948. The rate for England and Wales for 1949 being 6.31.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. F. W. BETENSON,

County Medical Officer of Health.

County Health Offices,  
Watton, Brecon.

9th November, 1950.

Brecon.  
Telephone: Office 214.  
Home 167.

## MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban ; and  
Rural ;

Builth Urban ; and  
Rural ;

Hay Urban ; and  
Rural ;

Llanwrtyd Wells  
Urban :

Dr. T. C. R. George, Guild Hall,  
Brecon (Tel.: Brecon 26).

Brynmawr Urban :

Crickhowell Rural :

Vaynor and Penderyn  
Rural :

Ystradgynlais Rural :

Dr. J. Tate, c/o. 25, Victoria Street,  
Merthyr Tydfil. From 1 3, 1950.  
(Tel.: Merthyr 466).

## SANITARY INSPECTORS IN THE COUNTY.

Brecon Urban :

Mr. S. Jinks, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Guild  
Hall, Brecon.

Brynmawr Urban :

Mr. Thomas Eli Hall, M.S.I.A., Council  
Offices, Brynmawr.

Builth Wells Urban :

Mr. E. V. Collins, M.R.S.I., Builth  
Wells.

Hay Urban :

Mr. Garfield G. Evans, Tower House,  
Talgarth.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban :

Mr. G. Williams, Llanwrtyd.

Brecon Rural :

Mr. W. J. Rees, M.R.S.I.,  
M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A., Oxford  
House, The Watton, Brecon.

Builth Rural :

Mr. C. H. Wright, Ashfield, Park Road,  
Builth Wells.

Crickhowell Rural :

Mr. E. R. Morgan, Pentwyn, Gilwern.

Hay Rural :

Mr. Garfield G. Evans, Tower House,  
Talgarth.

Vaynor and Penderyn  
Rural :

Mr. S. P. Harris, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.,  
25, Victoria Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Ystradgynlais  
Rural :

Mr. W. Emlyn Jones, M.R.S.I.,  
M.I.S.A., Council Offices, Ystrad-  
gynlais.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Square miles)	...	733
Area (Acres)	...	469,281
Population (1931 Census)	...	57,775
„ (1939 Census)	...	54,357
„ estimated to middle of 1949	...	54,159
Rateable Value (1st April, 1949)	...	£293,292
Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1948-49	...	£1,173 2s. 11d.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

**Section 21.—Health Centres:** It has not been possible to make any progress in the provision of Health Centres, but the matter is still before the Committee.

**Section 22. — Care of Mothers and Young Children:** This Section covers the following activities:—(a) Ante-natal clinics, (b) Post-natal clinics, (c) Child welfare clinics, (d) Day nurseries and residential nurseries, (e) Mother and baby homes, (f) Dental treatment given to expectant or nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age, (g) care of premature infants, (h) Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Maternal Deaths, etc., and replaces the old heading of Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Tables dealing with the various sections are given below:—

**Care of Premature Infants.**—i.e., babies weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of period of gestation. Still births are **excluded**.

(a) Number of premature infants notified during the year (including transferred notifications) whose mothers normally reside in the Authority's area:—

(i) Born at home	...	16
(ii) Born in hospital or nursing home	...	43

(b) Premature babies born in the area (whether their mothers normally reside in the area or not) but **excluding** babies born in maternity homes and hospitals in the National Health Service.

	BORN AT HOME.							BORN IN PRIVATE NURSING HOMES*						
	Transferred to Hospital.	Nursed entirely at Home.					GRAND TOTAL.	Transferred to Hospital.	Nursed entirely in Private Nursing Home					GRAND TOTAL.
		Died in first 24 hours	Died on 2nd to 7th day.	Died on 8th to 28th day	Survived 28 days.	TOTAL			Died in first 24 hours.	Died on 2nd to 7th day.	Died on 8th to 28th day.	Survived 28 days	TOTAL	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Under 3 lbs. ..	2	...	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3—4lbs. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4—5½lbs. ..	1	1	1	2	9	13	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" TOTAL ..	3	1	1	2	9	13	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

**Note:** \*Including Maternity Homes not in the National Health Service and Mother and Baby Homes where the women are confined in the Home.

**Complicated Maternity Cases.**—There is a maternity ward in the County War Memorial Hospital at Brecon, and one each in the Crickhowell War Memorial Hospital, and Builth Cottage Hospital.

During 1949 the following cases were admitted to hospital through the Health Department on account of bad housing or home conditions:—

Brecon—24. Builth—8. Neath General 49. St. Tydfil's. Merthyr Tydfil—23. Nantyglo and Blaina—4. Crickhowell—4. Abergavenny Cottage Hospital—2. Gwaunfarren Maternity Home—5. St. James, Tredegar—4. Cardiff Infirmary—1. Hereford County Hospital—9.

**Clinic and Treatment Centres, Maternity and Child Welfare.**—Maternity and Child Welfare Centres:—

Centre and Place of Meeting.	Day and Time of Meeting.
1 Abercave—Miners' Welfare Hall	.. 2nd & 4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
2 Brecon—Clinic, Watton Offices	.. 3rd Friday in month at 2 p.m.
3 Brynmawr—School Clinic	.. 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
4 Builth Wells—Park House, Park Road	.. 1st Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
5 Cefn Coed—School Clinic	.. 1st and 3rd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
6 Clydach—Welfare Hall	.. 2nd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.

Centre and Place of Meeting.	Day and Time of Meeting.
7 Colbren—Miners' Welfare Hall ...	2nd Monday in month at 2 p.m.
8 Crickhowell—Senior School ..	4th Thursday in month at 1.30 p.m.
9 Cwmtyrch—Miners' Welfare Hall ..	4th Wednesday in month at 2 p.m.
10 Barenfelen—Welfare Hall ..	2nd Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
11 Defynock—Reading Room, Sennybridge..	3rd Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
12 Gilwern—Church Hall, Gilwern ..	4th Thursday in month at 1.30 p.m.
13 Hay—Wesley Hall, Oxford Road ..	4th Thursday in month at 10 a.m.
14 Llanytrtyd Wells—War Mem. Institute	1st Friday in month at 2 p.m.
15 Penderyn—Bethel Ch. Vestry, Hirwaun	Alternate Tuesdays, 1.30 p.m.
16 Talgarth—Town Hall ...	4th Tuesday in month at 2 p.m.
17 Ystradgynlais—School Clinic ...	1st and 3rd Thursday in month at 2 p.m.

**Ante-Natal Clinics.** — Ante-Natal Clinics are held as follows in the same premises as for Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

1. Abercrave. — 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
2. Brynmawr.—1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
3. Cefn Coed.—1st and 3rd Mondays, a.m.
4. Ystradgynlais.—1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
5. Defynock.—3rd Tuesday at 10 a.m.
6. Brecon.—3rd Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
7. Hirwaun.—Bethel Church Vestry, alternate Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.

### **Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District—**

Arrangements are made with the Swansea and Brecon Moral Welfare Association to carry out this work in return for grant paid, the Health Authority being responsible for the maintenance of the mother before the confinement and for a period of 14 days after birth. Maintenance after this date becomes the responsibility of the Welfare Committee.

**Day Nurseries, Hospitals for Children, and Mother and Baby Homes.**—There are none in the County. The Education Committee has one Nursery School at Brynmawr.

### **DENTAL TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.**

An additional Dentist was advertised for in 1948 but no applications were received, and as a result it was decided to re-advertise the post at the same salary, but in a wider scope of papers and journals, and again no applications were received. The position here remains the same as reported in 1948.



**Ophthalmia Neonatorum—**

Number of cases notified in 1949—1, of which

(a) vision was unimpaired	...	Nil
(b) vision impaired	...	Nil
(c) vision lost	...	Nil
(d) patient died	...	Nil
(e) patient still under treatment at end of year...	...	Nil
(f) patient removed from district	...	Nil
(g) classification under above heads cannot be made	...	Nil

**Maternal Deaths—**

(a) **Number of women who died in consequence of child-birth during the year:—**

	From Sepsis.	From Causes.	Other Totals.
Confined at home	...	—	—
Confined in Nursing Home	...	—	—

(b) **Number of women who died:—**

At home	...	Nil
In nursing homes	...	Nil
After removal to an Institution	...	Nil

**Section 23—Midwives Service.**—From the appointed day, on the 5th July, 1948, the County Council took over the whole of the staff employed by the District Nursing Associations and now runs a whole-time midwifery scheme for the County.

Tables dealing with midwifery, notification of births, etc., are given below:—

**Supervision of Midwives—**

Sixty-six Midwives notified their intention to practice in the County, viz., 57 resident and 9 border midwives. During the year 6 left the County (5 resident, 1 border).

Of the above—

15 were resident in Institutions.

11 were in independent practice (County—7, Border—4).

40 were employed by the County Council: County 35, Border 5 (of these 2 were Relief Midwives, both County).

**Notifications received from Midwives during 1949—**

165 Forms of sending for Medical Aid were received:—145 for mothers and 20 for children.



An analysis of the causes given for summoning medical aid is given below:—

#### FOR THE MOTHER—

Miscarriage, Abortions, actual or threatened...	17
Contracted Pelvis	1
Hæmorrhage, ante and post partum	7
Prolonged obstructed and labour inertia	34
Malpresentation or Malposition	2
Other illnesses during pregnancy	1
Retained or adherent placenta or membranes...	8
Ruptured perineum	45
Unsatisfactory condition of mother	12
Pyrexia	3
Premature Labour	2
Albuminuria	7
Breech	8

#### FOR THE CHILD—

Premature or feebleness	11
Deformity or abnormality	1
Eye infections	1
Other conditions	3
Skin condition	2
Jaundice	2
Stillbirth	3

#### FEES OF DOCTORS CALLED IN UNDER MIDWIVES ACT, 1918—Section 14.

No. of cases in which General Practitioners claimed payment in respect of Medical Aid Forms	44
Total amount of Claims paid	£187 2 6

**Breaches of Central Midwives Board Rules.**—No breaches of the rules occurred in the year.

#### Administration of Analgesics.

- Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer analgesics, in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board:—
 

(a) Domiciliary	23
(b) In Institutions	2
Total	25

2. Number of cases in which analgesics was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year—133.
3. Number of Midwives trained in the year ... 5
4. Total number of sets of Minnitts Gas and Air Apparatus supplied by the Council ... 21

**Section 24.—Health Visiting.**—The health visiting staff now consists of all nurses previously employed part-time by District Nursing Associations who were taken over by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, together with the whole-time School Nurses, Health Visitors and Midwives previously in the Council's service.

Figures dealing with the Health Visiting are given below:—

**Notification of Births—**

The following notifications of births were received during the year: Live Births 746, Still Births 20, making a total of 766.

These births were attended by:—

County Council (a) Midwives (whole time)	... 132
(b) District Nurse Midwives: County 375, Border 3...	378
Private Midwives: County 5, Border 3	... 8
Hospital and Institutional Midwives	... 248

Number of Births notified in the Authority's Area during 1949 under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by any transferred notifications:—

(a) Live Births—913, (b) Still-Births—24, (c) Total—937.

**Health Visiting.**—The Health Visiting Service in the County consists of 1 Superintendent Nursing Office, 4 whole-time Health Visitors, and 21 part-time Health Visitors.

Particulars of the number of visits paid to mothers and babies are to be found in Table VI appended.

**Section 25—Home Nursing.**—Under the new arrangements the County Council has taken over the whole of the nursing staff of the District Nursing Associations, so that there now is a whole-time nursing service.

Figures of cases of home visits paid and cases attended are given below:—

1. Number of Nurses employed at end of year—
  - (a) Whole-time ... 4
  - (b) Part-time ... 24
2. Equivalent of whole-time services devoted to Home Nursing ... 9
3. Number of visits paid by Home Nurses ... 36355
4. Number of cases attended by Home Nurses... 1777

**Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation. (a) Vaccination.**—Vaccination can be carried out by the family doctors at their surgeries at the request of the parents and practitioners who have expressed a wish to undertake this work, are supplied with lymph free of charge, and record cards from the Health Department on which to enter the necessary particulars and return the cards for statistical purposes.

Figures of children vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1949.

Age at 31st Dec., 1949 i.e., born in years ...	Under 1 1949	1 to 4 1945 to 1948	5 to 14 1935 to 1944	15 or over before 1935	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	55	50	1	6	112
Number Re-Vaccinated ...	...	1	1	14	16

**(b) Diphtheria Immunisation.** — Diphtheria Immunisation work is being carried out quite satisfactorily at the various Infant Welfare Centres, on school premises and clinics, and from the figures obtainable to the end of the year, there is no doubt that the scheme is working most efficiently.

Number of children immunised during the six months ended 31st December, 1949:—

District	Primary Immunisation		Totals	Re- inforcing Dose
	Under 5	5—14		
Brecon Urban ...	104	14	118	126
Brynmawr Urban ...	82	36	118	101
Builth Urban ..	35	7	42	53
Hay Urban ...	20	8	28	42
Llanwrtyd Urban ...	13	5	18	26
Brecon Rural ...	127	60	187	192
Builth Rural ...	69	41	110	87
Crickhowell Rural ...	96	47	143	170
Hay Rural ..	55	22	77	133
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural ...	69	11	80	70
Ystradgynlais Rural ...	168	67	235	450
Totals ...	838	318	1156	1450

In addition the following cases were done in the year but records were not received until after the above table had been completed:—

	Under 5	5—14	Total	
	64	13	77	
<b>Making a Grand Total of</b> ...	902	—	—	1450

**Section 27—Ambulance Services.**—This Service continues, as given in detail in my report for 1948, as follows:—St. John Ambulance Stations are established at Brecon, Builth, Crickhowell and Hay. In addition, the County Council has taken over the Ystradgynlais Ambulance Association with two ambulances and two whole-time drivers.

The Ambulance arrangements remain as follows:—

1. **Brecon Ambulance.** — To cover Brecon Borough and the whole of the Brecon Rural District.
2. **Builth Ambulance** — To cover Builth Urban, Llanwrtyd Urban, and Builth Rural District, with the exception of the parish of Llanwrthwl at the very North of the County. This ambulance will also, by arrangement with Radnorshire, in emergency cases only, continue to cover as heretofore a small area of that County adjoining Builth Urban, viz., the Parishes of Llanelwedd, Llansantffraed-in-Elvel, Aberedw, Bettws Disserth, Rhulen, Llaubadarn-y-garreg, Llanfared, and Cregina, Glascwm and Colva. Radnorshire on their part will cover for us the three Breconshire Parishes of Llysdinann, Llanfihangel-Brynpabuan, and Llanwrthwl in the north of the County by their ambulance from Llandrinod Wells.
3. **Hay Ambulance.** — To cover Hay Urban and Hay Rural Districts, together with the Radnorshire District of Painscastle Rural and villages of Newchurch and Michaelchurch-on-Arrow.
4. **Crickhowell Ambulance.** — To cover the whole of the Crickhowell Rural District.

The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee act as sole agents of the Authority for the above areas of the County and operates the Brecon, Builth, Hay and Crickhowell ambulances on terms mutually agreed, and as may be approved

by the Minister of Health from time to time. The Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of an efficient ambulance service in these areas.

- 5 and 6. **Ystradgynlais Ambulances.**—Two ambulances owned by the County in this area operate within the frame-work of the County Ambulance Service and are subject to the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Apart from what has been mentioned above in connection with Radnorshire there are three areas of the County, all situated on the Southern Border, for which arrangements have been made for them to be covered by outside Authorities as follows:—

7. **Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District**, including the Brecon Rural appendage of Hepste. Glamorgan has undertaken to cover this area in their scheme by their ambulances stationed at Seven Sisters, Glynneath, and Aberdare.
8. **The Village of Cefn Coed and the adjoining Parish of Vaynor (Pontsticill).**—The Borough of Merthyr Tydfil has undertaken to include this area in their ambulance scheme.

Since a considerable number of people live in the rural part of the Penderyn Parish situated on the Eastern Border of this Parish where it adjoins the Parish of Vaynor but live within easy access of the main Brecon-Merthyr Road, arrangements have been made that these people should be covered for ambulance purposes by the Merthyr Borough even though they actually live within part of the area for which Glamorgan has undertaken responsibility since it is much more easy to obtain ambulance transport from Merthyr.

9. **Brynmaur Urban.**—Monmouthshire has agreed to cover this area by their ambulance situated just across the border at Nantyglo.

The arrangements with the border Counties have worked satisfactorily and the various difficulties that arise are being smoothed out. Generally speaking I think it can be said that the scheme is working well and in a short time all difficulties should be overcome.

A County Ambulance Transport Committee meets regularly, and includes representatives of the County Council, the Welsh Home Service Ambulance Committee, the Ystradgynlais District Ambulance Association, the Regional Hospital Board and Co-opted representatives of other interested bodies.

**Sitting Car Service.**—This service is running quite efficiently and works as follows:—



Each Medical Practitioner, midwife, hospital matron and other interested persons are supplied with voucher books authorising journeys to be made by private car at the expense of the County Council in all cases where by reason of physical defect the patient is unable to travel by public conveyance, and the starting point is situated within the County. A specimen copy of the voucher used is given below. It will be noted that the voucher, in addition to being authority for the journey, is also the actual account form for payment to the garage or car owner carrying out the journey. The charges permitted to car owners and the mileage allowed are 1/- a mile plus waiting time 3/- an hour.

Under pressure from the Ministry of Health a contract system is being considered to cover the County and so reduce the cost per mile travelled and at the same time obviate duplicate journeys which might be undertaken under the present scheme.

Figures of the ambulance and sitting car services are given below:—

#### Section 27.—Ambulance Services, 1949.

	Number of Journeys in the year.	Number of Patients carried.	Number of Accident and Other Emergency Calls Made. (included in Column 1).	Total Miles travelled in the year.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(a) Vehicles provided directly by the Council :				
Ambulances—2	748	2006	26	33977
Cars—Nil ...	...	...	...	...
(b) Vehicles provided by Agency Services (St. John Ambulance, etc.)				
Ambulances—4	468	469	64	18691
Cars— ...	2064	2129	...	63045

#### Section 28. — Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care—

Under this heading comes the after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defectiveness, all types of illnesses, the provision of equipment and apparatus (Medical Comforts) required for nursing the patients in the homes, and accommodation in the recuperation homes. The County Council, as was the case previously, is responsible for the provision of

extra nourishment, and clothes for the patient and his family except in the case of patients who are in receipt of national assistance when these items would be the responsibility of the National Assistance Board. Provision of out-door shelters, special beds and bedding, and other nursing requisites, etc., is the concern of the County Council, and applicants for any of these services are dealt with by furnishing applicants with forms on which they must enter particulars of all members of the family, income, etc. When assistance is given it is either free of charge or on a whole or part-time payment by the patient. The amount of payment to be made by the patient is assessed on an income scale adopted by the County Council and approved by the Ministry of Health.

Such items as wheel-chairs and crutches are provided by the County Council if the need is a temporary one, but if the necessity is likely to be permanent, then the responsibility for the provision of the articles rest with the Regional Hospital Board and are supplied through the Ministry of Pensions. Any applications of this nature are forwarded by this department to the appropriate Hospital Management Committee requesting them to deal with the case.

During the year the following 43 cases were dealt with under the scheme:—

Number of Cases.	Articles supplied.
3.	Air Beds.
1.	Bed Rest.
1.	Rubber Sheeting.
1.	Revolving Shelter,
3.	Extra Nourishment.
1.	Period of Convalescent Home.
14.	Referred to appropriate Authority, i.e., National Assistance Board, Hospital, etc.
26.	Over Scale.

**Medical Comforts.** — With regard to nursing equipment and apparatus and medical comforts, the same conditions apply with regard to payment and full use is being made by the Council of the equipment already owned by the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society.

**ORTHOPÆDIC WORK.**— The treatment of Orthopædic cases is undertaken and the services of Mr. Parker, Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, are available. An orthopædic sister, Miss Ivy B. Leefe, is also engaged as a Part-time Officer.



Table shewing Cases referred to Orthopædic Surgeon.

CENTRE. DATE OF EXAMINATION.	Brecon 17/6/49	Ystradgyn- lais 15/7/49	Brynmawr 30/9/49	Totals
1. Number of Children under School Age called up for Examination ...	31	18	29	78
2. Number of Children Present and Examined ...	30	18	27	75
3. Number found not to require Treatment ...	3	2	1	6
4. Number found to require Domiciliary or Clinic Treatment ...	27	12	20	59
5. Number found to require Hospital Treatment ...	...	2	1	3
6. For Further Observation ...	...	2	5	7

**TUBERCULOSIS.** — The Treatment of Tuberculosis in the County is carried on by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board (Tuberculosis Division). Table V (appended) shows the number of cases notified on Form "A" during the year.

The Time Tables of the Tuberculosis Chest Physicians are as follows:—

Name and Address of Chest Clinic.	Dates of Attendance.	Times.
1. Dr. D. I. Williams, 2, Bulwark, Brecon—Telephone 54.		
2, Bulwark, Brecon .	Every Tuesday and ..	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Friday	and by appointment.
Haulybryn Castle ..	1st & 3rd Mondays ..	12 noon to 1 p.m.
View, Builth Wells		
Adelina Patti Hospital, ..	Every Wednesday ..	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Craig-y-nos		
Spa Baths, High ..	Mondays	.. 2 p.m.
St., Llandrindod		
Highland Moors ..	Mondays	.. 3.15 p.m.
Sanatorium, ..		
Llandrindod		
Ystradgynlais-- ..	Wednesdays	.. 2 p.m.
Adelina Patti ..		
Hospital		
2. Dr. A. E. Aslett, "Hawthorns," Courtland Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil—Telephone 129.		

For Cefn, Vaynor and Pontsticill Patients.

Courtland Terrace ..	Mondays & Wed- ..	2 p.m.
Merthyr Tydfil	nesdays	

Name & Address  
of Chest Clinic.      Dates of Attendance.      Times.

For Penderyn and Hirwaun Patients.

42, Cannon Street, .. Mondays & Thurs- .. 10 a.m.  
Aberdare                      days

3. Dr. R. G. Prosser Evans, 107, London Road, Neath.      Telephone,  
Neath 278.

For Pontneathvaughan.

107, London Road, .. Mondays & Wednes-.. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Neath                      days & Thursdays

4. Dr. F. F. Jarman, "Ennisclare," Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith.  
Telephone—Blackwood 3281.

"Ennisclare,"                      .. Mondays                      .. 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.  
Llanarth Road.                      ..                      ..                      ..  
Pontllanfraith                      Fridays                      .. 10 a.m.

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

The figures relating to patients known to have been treated during 1949 are as follows:—

1. Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from:—

		Swansea.	Hereford.
Syphilis	...	1	—
Soft Chancre	...	—	—
Gonorrhœa	...	1	—
Conditions other than Venereal	...	1	3

2. Total number of attendances of all patients residing in the area—Swansea, 82. Hereford, 5.

**CANCER.**—During the year, 91 deaths were recorded, giving a death rate of 1.68 per 1,000, as compared with 76 and a death rate of 1.41 in 1949.

**Section 29—Domestic Help.**—This scheme is worked on a part-time basis, no whole-time helps being employed

Number of Domestic Helps employed on 31st Dec., 1949:—

(a) Whole-time—Nil; (b) Part-time—35.

Number of Domestic Helps employed during the period to 31st December, 1949                      ...      112

**Section 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.**—Under this section the County Council, through the Health Department, is responsible for the Mental Health Services.

The County Medical Officer undertakes the organisation and control of the service and the Mid-Wales Hospital Board have appointed a Psychiatric Social Worker. Duly Authorised

Officers have been appointed who deal with the duties of initial proceedings under Section 51 of the Act.

**Staff Employed.**—The County Medical Officer is responsible for the work of ascertainment of mental defectives and for administration assisted by the Assistant Medical Officer who is already a qualified psychiatrist. One Social Worker is employed by the Regional Hospital Board, who gives part of her services to patients in this County, and 5 Duly Authorised Officers. At present there are no Occupation Centres or Supervisors.

Close co-operation is kept with the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees. No duties have been delegated to voluntary associations and no arrangements initiated for the training of Mental Health Workers, but the Psychiatric Social worker employed in the County is fully trained.

#### Work undertaken:—

(A) Under Section 28, Prevention, Care and after-Care... Nil

(B) 1. Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts by Duly Authorised Officers—year 1949.

#### Section 14, of the Lunacy Act, 1890—

Brecon and District	...	2
Builth and District	...	8

#### Section 20, of the Lunacy Act, 1890 ...Nil

Brynmawr District	...	1
-------------------	-----	---

#### 2. Other information—

(a) Cases admitted to and discharged from Mental Hospitals during 1949—

	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.
Certified Patients under Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890	... 12	7	8
Voluntary Patients, under Section 1, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	... 30	23	—
Temporary Patients under Section 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1930	... —	—	—

(b) **Actual number of Breconshire patients in Mental Hospitals on the 31st December, 1949—**

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Certified Patients	...	62	89	151
Voluntary Patients	...	5	11	16
Temporary Patients	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	67	100	167

*Note.*—For names and addresses of Duly Authorised Officers see under heading, National Assistance Act, 1948 (Welfare Services)—Page 20.

(C) 1. **Under Mental Deficiency Act, 1913-1933—**

		Male.	Female.	Total.
(1) Ascertainment, including number of defectives awaiting vacancies in Institutions at the end of the year	...	1	1	2
(2) Guardianship and Supervision—				
Under 16 years of age	...	3	3	6
Aged 16 years and over	...	37	41	78
(3) Training	...	—	—	—

2. **Other information—**

(a) **Under Order—**

(1) Institutions—				
Under 16 years of age	...	—	1	1
Aged 16 years and over	...	5	17	22
(2) On Licence from Institutions—				
Under 16 years of age	...	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over	...	2	3	5

(b) **Patients certified in the year—**

Under 16 years of age	...	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over	...	—	—	—

**Ambulance Services.**—The ambulance services for men ally ill patients are the same as set out in Section 27. \*

**Mental Hospitals.**—The Regional Hospital Board has one hospital in the County, viz., The Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth.

The Mid-Wales Hospital, Talgarth, is recognised as a place of Safety under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and patients in need of control can, therefore, be admitted and detained there for not more than three days. This hospital has accommodation for both males and females.

### **PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER.**

Miss Gwendoline Morgan is the Psychiatric Social Worker for Breconshire, Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, and the Welsh Border Hospital Management Committee, and took up her duties on 1st November, 1949.

The main duties of the worker for the Local Health Authority are the supervision of patients discharged from Mental Hospitals. The Social Worker forges a link between the hospital and the home with a view to lessening the strain when the patient returns from a supervised institutional life to meet his responsibilities in the world. Advice and encouragement is given in domestic and occupational problems; difficulties with neighbours and financial worries are discussed, and where necessary the patient is encouraged to attend the clinic for out-patient treatment.

Up to date 19 patients are being supervised and 119 visits have been paid.

In addition patients have been referred to the Psychiatric Social Worker for help by hospitals outside the district or other agencies.

There were four of these cases and 11 visits were paid.

Closely related to this is the work done for the Mid-Wales Mental Hospital at Talgarth. On admission of a patient to the hospital the relatives are visited by the Psychiatric Social Worker in order to compile a detailed report of the environmental conditions, physical and mental history, behaviour traits, personal and family history, etc., so that an all round picture of the patient in his normal setting can be presented to the Medical Officer at the hospital.

The homes of 29 patients in Breconshire, who were admitted to the Mid-Wales Hospital, have been visited.

A certain amount of Kindred Social Work is undertaken in advising and helping relatives in their attitude towards patients, or in the settlement of matrimonial or family difficulties in the home.

**SUMMARY.**

Number of homes visited for patients admitted to the Mid-Wales Hospital	...	29
Number of patients discharged from Mid-Wales Hospital	...	18
Visits paid	...	103
Number of patients visited referred by other Hospitals	...	4
Visits paid	...	11

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**—Under this Act the Welfare Committee of the County Council is responsible for the Welfare of the Blind and the old table is retained for this year as follows, since my department is still undertaking the administration of this work:—

**BLIND PERSONS.**

A—New cases added to the register in the year ... 22

B—Cases examined in the year and found not blind 5

Blind persons on register, in the districts, at the end of 1949.

District.	Number of Blind Persons on County Register.		
	Male	Female	Total
Brecon Urban	10	9	19
Brynmawr Urban	8	8	16
Builth Wells Urban	...	2	2
Hay Urban	...	1	1
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban...	1	2	3
Brecon Rural	9	11	20
Builth Rural	1	4	5
Crickhowell Rural	10	4	14
Hay Rural	1	7	8
Vaynor & Penderyn Rural	8	4	12
Ystradgynlais Rural	10	24	34
Totals	58	76	134
Totals 1948	58	75	133

**Section 47.**—No action was taken by the County Council under this section, but the Brecon Borough Council proceeded under this section in one case in the year.

**Welfare of the Blind.**—During the year a Blind Welfare Officer was advertised for but no applications were received. The position is now under review.

## WELFARE SERVICES.

The County of Brecon comprises one area for Welfare purposes divided into the following Districts:—

District.	Welfare Officer and Duly Authorised Officer.
1. *Brynmawr, Llanelly Hill, and Crickhowell	Mr. D. J. Davies, Welfare Offices, Bailey St., Brynmawr
2. Vaynor and Penderyn	Mr. D. W. Chambers, Abertaf, Cefn Coed.
3. Ystradgynlais	Mr. Wm. Davies, c/o. Roger E. L. Thomas, Pegler's Buildings, Ystradgynlais.
4. *Brecknock and Devynock...	Mr. H. G. Edwards, 13, The Watton, Brecon.
5. *Hay, Talgarth and Builth...	Mr. W. E. Davies, c/o. Masons Arms, Talgarth.

\*Whole-time County Officers.

**Welfare Home.**—There is one Welfare Home at Hay, and it is called Cockerft House.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**Smallpox Hospitals.**—New arrangements have been made for Smallpox Cases to be admitted to Penrhys Hospital and for Consultants to be called in to suspected cases. On diagnosing a case the Consultant will be responsible for arranging for Penrhys Hospital to be ready to receive the patient. In emergencies, where the consultants are not immediately available, a telephone call should be put through to the City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff (Telephone: Cardiff 960), giving details to a responsible officer. The patient will be removed by the County Council under their Ambulance Scheme made under Section 27 of the N.H. Service Act, 1946.



Table I.—Vital Statistics for Various Districts for 1949.

Name of District.	Population estimated to the middle of the year.	Births				Nett Deaths belonging to the District				Deaths of Mothers			
		Live Births		Still Births		At all ages		Under 1 y of age		Puerperal Sepsis	Other puerperal Causes	Total	Rate per 1000 Births
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number.	Rate per 1000 Live Births				
Brecon Urban ..	5658	109	19.2	1	0.1	82	14.4	5	45.8	..	..	..	..
Brynmawr Urban ..	6569	116	17.6	2	0.3	81	12.3	7	60.3	..	..	..	..
Builth Wells Urban ..	1674	30	17.9	..	..	29	17.3	1	33.3	..	..	..	..
Hay Urban ..	1407	22	15.6	2	1.3	28	19.9	2	90.9	..	..	..	..
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban ..	6.2	8	11.7	..	..	13	19.0	1	125.0	..	..	..	..
Brecon Rural ..	7012	109	15.4	4	0.5	69	9.7	2	18.3	..	..	..	..
Builth Rural ..	3412	61	17.3	..	..	37	10.8	1	16.3	..	..	..	..
Crickhowell Rural ..	7000	121	17.2	7	1.0	74	10.5	6	49.5	..	..	..	..
Hay Rural ..	3655	61	16.6	2	0.5	40	13.6	2	32.3	..	..	..	..
Vaynor and Penderwyn Rural ..	5520	108	19.5	6	0.9	81	14.6	4	37.0	..	..	..	..
Ystradgynlais Rural ..	11540	192	16.6	3	0.2	131	11.3	10	52.0	..	..	..	..
Brecon County ..	54159	937	17.30	26	0.48	675	12.46	41	43.75	..	..	..	..
England and Wales .	..	..	16.7	..	6.39	..	11.7	..	32	..	..	..	6.31
Brecon County, 1948	53802	920	17.09	35	0.65	592	11.00	29	51.52	..	2	2	2.09

Table II.—Vital Statistics.  
Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year, 1949.  
WHOLE COUNTY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over
ALL CAUSES—Males	359	24	3	..	45	73	214
Females	316	17	4	4	22	61	208
Total	675	41	7	4	67	134	422
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	25	..	..	1	17	5	2
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	..	3	..	2	..	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 Influenza	9	..	..	..	..	2	7
10 Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11 Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph:	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
12 Ac: Inf: encaph:	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13 Cancer of buc. cav: and œsoph (m)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
uterus (f)	9	..	..	..	..	4	5
14 Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	26	..	..	..	1	10	15
15 Cancer of Breast	8	..	..	..	..	4	4
16 Cancer of all other sites	48	..	..	..	3	16	29
17 Diabetes	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
18 Intracranial vascular lesions	83	..	..	..	1	16	66
19 Heart Disease	196	..	..	..	5	36	155
20 Other Dis: of Circ. System	25	..	..	..	..	3	22
21 Bronchitis	43	2	..	..	2	7	32
22 Pneumonia	12	3	..	..	1	1	7
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	15	..	..	..	..	8	7
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	6	..	..	..	1	2	3
25 Diarrhœa, under 2 years	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
26 Appendicitis	2	..	..	..	1	..	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	15	..	1	1	2	5	6
28 Nephritis	14	..	..	..	3	1	10
29 Puer: and P. st-Abort: Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
30 Other Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31 Premature Birth	12	12	..	..	..	..	..
32 Con: Mal: Birth Inj: Infant Dis:	17	14	..	..	2	1	..
33 Suicide	5	..	..	..	2	1	2
34 Road Traffic Acc	6	..	..	1	4	..	1
35 Other Violent Causes	30	5	2	1	12	3	7
36 All Other Causes	57	2	..	..	8	7	40
Totals, 1948	592	29	7	5	54	136	361

**Table III.—Vital Statistics.**

**Causes of Death in the Separate Districts of the County during  
the year, 1949.**

Causes of Death.	URBAN					RURAL					TOTAL	
	Brecon	Brynmawr	Builth Wells	Hay	Llanwrtyd Wells	Brecon	Builth	Crickhowell	Hay	Vaynor and Penderyn		Ystradgynlais
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tub. of Resp. System	2	3	1	1	...	2	...	2	...	6	8	25
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	6
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	2	1	1	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	9
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Polio- encaph:	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ac: Inf: encaph:	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer of buc. cav: and œsoph (m), uterus (f)	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	4	9
Can. of Stom. and duodenum	4	2	2	2	...	3	1	2	...	6	4	26
Cancer of Breast	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	2	8
Cancer of all other sites	9	5	3	2	1	6	1	3	7	7	1	48
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	12	4	6	1	1	8	6	11	5	14	15	83
Heart Disease	33	17	7	9	8	24	15	21	11	24	27	196
Other Dis: of Circ: System.	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	3	15	25
Bronchitis	1	17	3	1	...	2	2	9	2	...	6	43
Pneumonia	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	3	12
Other Respiratory Diseases...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	9	15
Ulcer of Stom. or Duodenum	2	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
Diarrhœa, (under 2 years)	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Appendicitis	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	4	...	1	...	2	3	...	1	1	3	15
Nephritis	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	2	5	14
Puer: and Post-Abort: Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	1	3	12
Con: Mal: Birth Inj: Infant Dis:	2	2	...	1	...	1	1	3	1	2	4	17
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	5
Road Traffic Acc	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	6
Other Violent Causes	3	2	1	3	2	...	1	1	2	4	11	30
All Other Causes	6	8	2	4	...	6	3	9	7	6	6	57
Totals	82	81	29	28	13	68	37	74	50	81	131	675
Totals, 1948	55	91	19	23	10	83	45	69	28	55	114	592

Table IV.—Notifiable Diseases, 1949.

DISTRICT	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Bacterial Fever.	Pneumonia.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Erysipelas.	Erysipelas.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox	Polio-Encephalitis.	Undulant Fever.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Dysentery	Others	TOTALS
Brecon Urban	..	3	..	..	..9	1	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	1	22
Brynmawr Urban	..	8	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	87	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Builth Wells Urban	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Hay Urban	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Llanwrtyd Wells Urban	..	..	..	..	..2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Brecon Rural	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Builth Rural	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Crickhowell Rural	..	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Hay Rural	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Vaynor and Penderwyn Rural	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Ystradgynlais Rural	..	12	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Totals	..	38	5	..	15	4	3	..	3	308	89	..	..	..	..	4	1	470
Total, 1948	..	86	9	1	19	3	2	1	2	196	92	2	1	1	3	..	..	420

Table V.—Tuberculosis.

Summary of Notifications during the period from 1st January, 1949, to 31st December, 1949.

Notification on Form A.														
Number of Primary Notifications.														
Age Periods	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 and upwards	Total (All Ages).
Respiratory—Males...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	9	3	2	3	1	...	29
„ Females	..	...	1	...	..	9	6	5	8	2	2	...	...	33
Non-Respiratory—Males	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	4
„ Females	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals ...	..	...	4	1	1	14	13	14	11	4	5	2	...	59

Table VI.—Showing the Work of the Health Visitors during the Year, 1949.

DISTRICT	Pre-Natal Visits		First Visits		Re-Visits		Special Visits		Other Visits				Totals			
	First Visits.	Re-Visits	To Infants under one year		To Children one to five years		To Infants under one year		To Children one to five years		Still-Births.	Tuberculois		Mental Defectives	Blind	Others.
Blecon Town and Country	10	..	102	6	1159	1146	..	..	1	80	9	51	..	2564		
Brynmawr	..	..	73	6	634	661	..	..	1	123	8	65	3	1567		
Vaynor and Penderyn	..	..	109	8	592	532	..	..	5	245	13	63	16	1886		
Ystradgynlais	10	2	133	38	1573	1478	3	2	4	212	18	85	21	3579		
Talybont and Llanfrynach	20	109	14	4	161	203	6	4	1	12	3	50	..	587		
Abercrave	26	118	19	..	325	321	..	..	..	24	4	92	..	929		
Beulah (Llanymadoc)	16	42	13	2	160	118	6	5	..	3	..	12	..	377		
Brecon (Llanepyddid)	5	136	12	1	69	236	..	..	..	8	9	2	..	469		
Builth	28	67	27	3	328	405	74	..	..	26	2	25	..	992		
Bwlch and Llangynidr	3	1	14	..	104	276	1	..	..	42	2	36	..	479		
Colbren	12	70	23	19	96	183	..	..	..	22	..	8	..	433		
Crickhowell	17	102	36	1	401	690	24	19	..	52	2	18	..	1362		
Devynock	44	83	34	1	347	493	..	..	3	65	..	68	..	1128		
Erwood and Llanwen	11	50	17	4	148	252	8	13	..	..	..	1	..	604		
Hay and Cusop	24	88	21	8	362	207	32	32	1	10	..	19	..	804		
Llanelli (Darefelen)	3	49	11	..	160	145	..	1	..	5	1	..	..	375		
Gilwern and Glynfach	27	134	42	7	162	310	32	16	..	36	4	26	137	933		
Llanigon and Glasbury	13	94	15	3	217	210	15	15	1	11	8	9	100	741		
Llangorse	14	28	7	..	52	105	..	..	..	25	1	13	..	245		
Llanwrthwl	5	14	4	6	46	70	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	157		
Llanwrtyd Wells	28	116	25	3	167	204	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	557		
Newbridge-on-Wye	2	9	1	..	88	175	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	280		
Talgarth	25	106	32	10	380	244	..	12	..	25	6	20	..	858		
County Relief Nurses	7	152	21	..	112	61	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	368		
Glynfach	..	3	1	..	9	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21		
Totals	351	1572	806	130	7852	9063	213	126	17	1032	87	659	277	22185		



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